

THE VALENTINE KNITTING COMPANY.

This concern manufactures knit underwear in various grades and weights, from camel's hair and pure Australian lambs' wool to cotton mixed, plain and ribbed, shirts and drawers and union suits, in all the standard colorings, for men, women and children. The plant covers a large area of land. All the buildings are of brick, designed on modern methods of mill building, and are protected from fire by the sprinkler system—a system so perfect that the rate of insurance never exceeds one-sixth of one per cent. per annum. The plant is heated by steam and lighted by electricity from the company's private plant, storage batteries being used in conjunction to continue such lighting as may be needed after the generator is shut down at the close of working hours. The buildings consist of a three-story structure, 24x102 feet on the foundation, with

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traces his ancestry to Richard Valentine who settled in Hempstead, Long Island, N. Y., in 1649, and whose descendants were for many decades the leading residents of that town. Joseph Valentine, grandfather of Alonso B. Valentine, was born on the homestead of his ancestors in Hempstead January 6, 1750, and he married a Miss Sherman. He was a soldier of the Revolution, and he died in Jackson, Washington county, N. Y., January 22, 1814. Joel Valentine, father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Jackson, N. Y., January 22, 1791, and he fought in the war of 1812. He died in Bennington, Vt., July 17, 1866. Alonso B. Valentine received his education in the district schools and academy. He thoroughly learned the manufacturing business, but was attracted to California during the gold fever, and afterward spent two years in the lumbering camps of Wisconsin. On July 31, 1862, he was commissioned by Gov. Holbrook, lieutenant and quartermaster of the Tenth Regi-

ment, Vermont Volunteers. On March 2, 1861, he was nominated by President Lincoln and confirmed by the United States Senate to the rank of captain and commissary of subsistence and assigned to duty with the old Vermont Brigade. He was brevetted major by President Johnson in 1865 "for meritorious services." He remained in the service till the close of the war and then returned to Bennington to resume manufacturing. The death of his father in 1866 converting the wooden mill into a knitting mill. Major Valentine, always of robust physique, has led the most active life. He is quick of intuition, acts promptly, has positive views, sometimes a little inclined to arbitrariness, yet prompt to acknowledge a fault and ample in the atonement. He is of large and generous heart, sympathetic, liberal to a fault with time and purse in all matters pertaining first to his native town, second to his native state and third to his native country. With these characteristics he is not to be doubted that he has always taken the foremost rank in every movement in the interest of his town and state. He was for ten years a trustee of the graded school, being one of its building committee. He was elected to the state senate in 1886. He has been president of the Vermont Officers' Reunion Society, president of the Sixth Army Corps Organization, commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, department of Vermont for two years, the first year of which the department increased in membership from less than eight hundred to more than fifteen hundred, and the second year again doubling to twice that number. He has been commander of the Vermont Commandery, military organization of the Loyal Legion, president of the National Manufacturers of Knit Goods' association; active director of the Home Market club, Boston; president of the Bennington County Savings Bank; vice president of the Bennington Battle Monument and Historical Society. Major Valentine while in the senate

five of these are in the needle department, where there are more knitting machine needles made than are made by any other one concern in the United States. The output reaches about a million a month. Mr. Cooper also handles latch needles and carries a full stock, so that he is always ready to supply the demand of his customers for both spring and latch needles. In the machine department are thirty-five hands constantly employed in making flat rib and circular rib knitting machines for making all parts of knit undergarments. Mr. Cooper is now also fitted for supplying every class of machinery for shirts and for drawers, including spring and latch needles. Mr. Cooper has also a rib department in the needle building above described. Here he employs fifteen operatives making anklets or drawer bottoms for the trade. The machine and needle trade extends to all parts of the United States and Mr. Cooper is now making machines for export to Europe. Mr. Cooper has been a resident of Bennington for thirty-two years, and during all this period has been one of the leading manufacturers of the county. He is held in high esteem by all his fellow citizens, both as a manufacturer and an upright citizen.

COOPER MANUFACTURING CO.

Manufacturers of Ladies' and Gentlemen's Fine Knit Underwear, 727 Main Street. President Charles Cooper, Secretary and Treasurer A. J. Cooper, and Superintendent James E. Burke. It was on the site of this mill that Charles Cooper began the manufacture of needles in 1868. The knitting goods industry grew so rapidly and the demand for Bennington-made garments became so great that Mr. Cooper found it feasible to



A. J. COOPER.

start a knitting mill. This was in 1883, when he and his son, Alexander J. Cooper, established the Cooper Manufacturing Company. The business was a success from the start, and soon additional room was needed, which was provided by the building of a second large building on the other side of the stream. In 1888 the business was incorporated with a capital stock of \$100,000. Mr. Cooper and his son and Benjamin F. Ball being the first officers. Mr. Ball soon afterward died, and Mr. Cooper purchased his interest. The establishment today is one of the leading manufacturing concerns of Bennington and has two large mills, one hundred and one

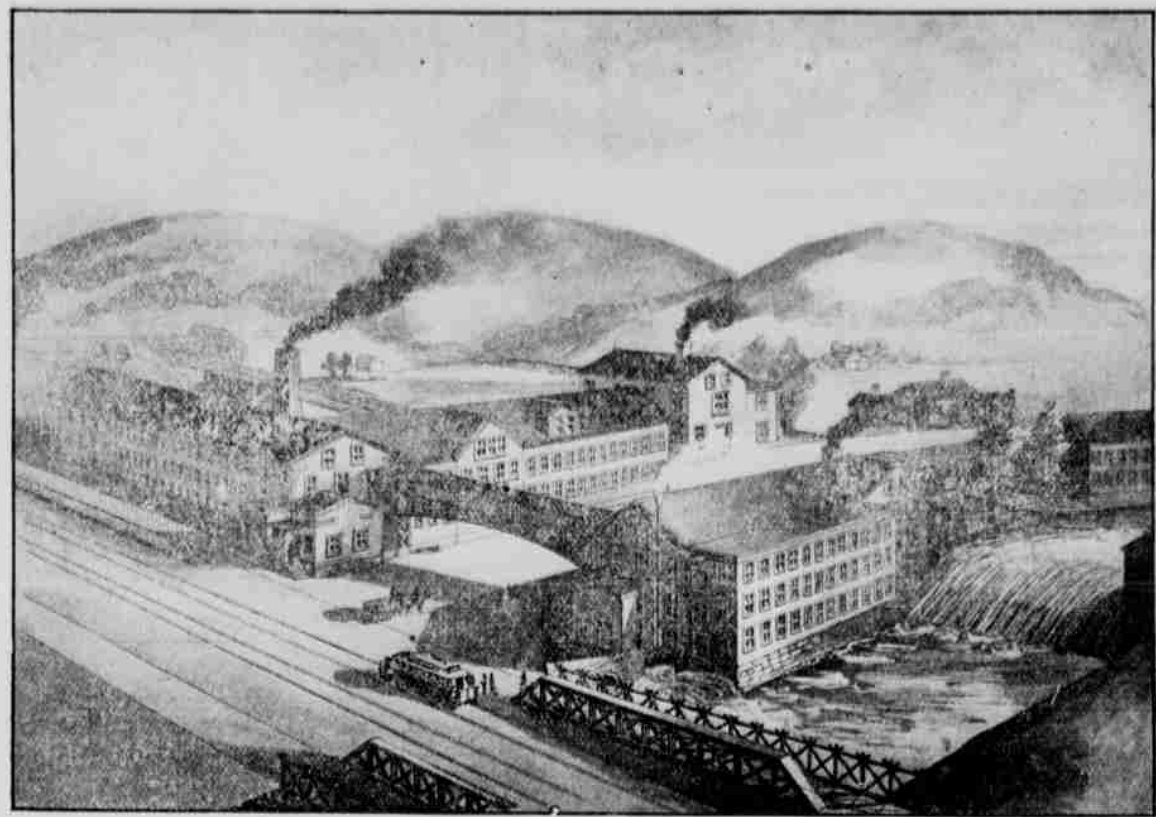
CHARLES COOPER.

Manufacturer of Knitting Machinery and Needles, 418 Main Street. Mr. Cooper is the pioneer manufacturer of knitting needles in the United States. In 1829 he removed his needle manufacturing establishment from Thompsonville, Conn., to Bennington, Vt., and occupied part of the machine shop of Olin Scott. Later he removed to the old Benton Paper mill, where the knitting mill of the



CHARLES COOPER.

Cooper Manufacturing Company now is. About this time he entered into partnership with Eli Tiffany in the manufacture of flat rib knitting machinery under the firm name of Tiffany & Cooper. He has been a manufacturer of knitting needles since 1829, and he had been engaged in the industry eleven years previous to that. He continued as a partner of Mr. Tiffany for eighteen years, when he withdrew and built a new mill for himself on the old site of the Buckley Squires tannery. As he had in the meantime started a knitting mill in connection with his needle factory he removed the needle factory from the old quarters to the new mill at 418 Main Street. Additions have been made from time to time and today the establishment consists of the machine building, three stories high, forty-five feet wide and seventy-eight feet long; the needle building, one hundred and twenty by forty feet in dimensions and two stories high, and auxiliary buildings for pattern shop, blacksmiths shop and power house. Both buildings are well equipped with improved machinery for making needles and knitting machines, and water, steam and electricity are all used for running the mill. About eighty hands are employed in the establishment. Thirty-



COOPER MANUFACTURING CO.

A. DRYSDALE & SON.

Dealers in Dry Goods, Carpets, Paper Hanging, Curtains, Boots and Shoes. It. S. Drysdale, proprietor. The largest retail establishment in Bennington county and one of the finest stores in the state is the Drysdale establishment, on the corner of North and River streets. The business was established twenty-nine years ago by A. Drysdale, in the old Mill store, down on Mill street, and became known all through this section as one of the most reliable houses in the town. For almost twenty years the store occupied its original quarters, and not till 1860 was a change thought advisable. Stores large enough to accommodate the business were not to be had on short notice, and the firm had to wait until they could have a building built for them. This was done by Henry W. Putnam, who erected a large business house in the corner of North and River streets, and in 1861 the Drysdale establishment was moved into it, occupying the first and second floors and basement. The storehouse is forty-eight feet by one hundred feet deep, having an annex twenty-five by forty feet. On the main floor is carried a complete stock of dry goods, embracing everything novel, fashionable and desirable in silks, velvets, foreign and domestic dress goods, linens, flannels, wash fabrics, bedding material, domestics, small wares, notions, toilet articles, fancy goods and ladies and children's undergarments. In the rear portion of the store is the shoe department, where a general line of ladies', men's and children's boots and shoes is

strictest integrity, and is numbered among Bennington's most worthy citizens. Mr. Drysdale has just purchased a handsome residence situated in a most slightly spot overlooking the village, an engraving of which is published herewith.

BENNINGTON KNITTING CO.

Manufacturers of Underwear, Scott Street. H. C. Lindloff president, N. M. Puffer secretary and treasurer. This company was organized and incorporated in 1887 to manufacture knit underwear. In 1884 new officers were elected,



N. M. PUFFER.

H. C. Lindloff as president and N. M. Puffer secretary and treasurer. Both of these gentlemen are experienced, practical mill men, and thoroughly understand the business in all its branches. They entered into the manufacturing business with an energy and enterprise which, coupled with good business and executive ability, have brought them suc-

cess, and placed their mill in the front rank of the knitting industry of Bennington. In 1885 the business increased to such an extent that they doubled their capacity with the latest improved machinery, and also erected auxiliary buildings for offices, warehouse, storage, etc. They have a main mill which is 60x100 feet, ground dimensions, and three sto-



RESIDENCE OF K. S. DRYSDALE.

hundred and fifty feet long and each thirty-five feet wide and having three floors. The mill is equipped with eight sets of machinery of the latest and most improved pattern, and employs 300 people. The capacity of the mill is three hundred dozen garments per day, and the products are fine knit underwear in white and fancy colors, both flat and ribbed goods, for men and women. The product is sold to jobbers and goes to all parts of the United States and the goods command high commendation from the trade, and find a ready market.

carried, while in the annex gentlemen's underwear and furnishing goods may be found in great variety. The second floor is devoted to the carpet and wall paper departments, and also ladies' cloaks and wraps, jackets, waists and ready-made garments, and also children's and infants' wear. The carpet department carries an elegant line of Ingrains, Brussels, and placed their mill in the front

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H. C. LINDLOFF.

A. P. CHILDS, INSURANCE.

A. P. Childs of Bennington is the Agency Director of the New York Life Insurance Company for Vermont and the business of that great institution which is both the largest in Vermont and in the world, of any company, shows well the character, push and progress of Mr. Childs, whose life insurance career of over thirty years has been one of rare success and achievement. Mr. Childs has long enjoyed the reputation of being the largest personal producer in the life insurance field of any agent in New England and it gives us pleasure to present his face to our readers that they may look upon a man who has proven so supreme a persuader of men to do their



A. P. CHILDS.

benefit and protection of the home, humanity, the community and themselves. Mr. Childs has recently been elected president of the Association of the Life Insurance Fraternity of Vermont, which fact demonstrates his rank among those engaged in this beneficent profession.



CHARLES COOPER'S NEEDLE FACTORY.